

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 have been canceled herein and new Claims 5-18 have been added. No new matter is contained in the amendment. Based on the amendments and remarks, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Currently, Claim 5 provides the limitation that the bristles of the tee remain in a vertical orientation and have a length from 22mm and 27mm. Also, new Claim 6 includes the limitation that the outer radius of the annular support surface is 7.5mm when supporting the golf ball. The crux of the present invention is that the bristles of the golf tee remain in a vertical orientation while supporting a golf ball, support the golf ball stably, and provide a minimum amount of resistance to a golf club passing through the bristles when the golf ball is hit.

The two previously cited references are United States Patent No. 6,053,822 (Kolodney et al) and United States Design No. 181,633 (Fariest et al).

The Kolodney reference discloses a golf tee including bristles which become splayed when a golf ball is supported on the tee (see Figure 1). The golf ball nestles within the bristles of the tee. The splaying of the bristles means that a player can never be sure that a golf ball is always sitting at the same height, after it has been placed on the tee. Another problem with the splayed bristles is that if the golf ball is hit with an iron, the bristles can be caught between the ball and the iron when the ball is hit and this will take away any spin that may be put on the ball by the iron. A further problem is that this can cause the tee to be pulled out of the ground and follow the ball when the ball is hit.

The Fariest reference does not show whether or not the bristles will become splayed when the tee supports a golf ball. The Fariest reference also does not disclose the dimensions of the golf tee, and thus does not disclose the inside and outside radius of the annular support surface provided by the bristles of the tee. This tee therefore does not disclose the optimum annular support surface provided by bristles

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which support the golf ball so that it is not easily blown off the tee, but which also do not splay. The longer the height of the bristles, the more likely it is that the bristles will become splayed. It is evident from the drawing of the tee in the Farliest reference that the bristles are fairly short and must be less than 20mm in length. The golf tee of the current invention provides a longer length bristles of from 22mm to 27mm, which is the height required for tee-ing off with a wood.

Accordingly, it is believed that the golf tee as claimed in the current claims is both novel and inventive in the light of the prior art.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney if doing so will facilitate prosecution of the application. No additional fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 19-5029.

Respectfully submitted,

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